

Message Text

SECRET

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
INFO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 003033

NODIS
FOR AMBASSADOR FROM SAUNDERS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PEPR IS XF EEC

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST: EC CONSULTATIONS

REF: BONN 224

1. AMBASSADOR VON STADEN HAS APPROACHED ACTING SECRETARY SAYING THAT, IN A DESIRE TO BE RESPONSIVE TO SADAT'S CURRENT NEEDS, THE GERMANS WOULD LIKE TO DEVELOP A COORDINATED DIPLOMATIC POSITION AMONG EC-9 WHICH WOULD BE AGREEABLE TO US. POSITION WOULD NOT BE MADE PUBLIC, ACCORDING TO VON STADEN, BUT WOULD BE USED BILATERALLY BY THE 9 WITH ISRAEL. VON STADEN ADDED THAT COORDINATED POSITION WOULD BE DEVELOPED PRIOR TO AND DURING JANUARY 10-11 POLITICAL DIRECTORS' MEETING IN COPENHAGEN SO APPROACHES TO ISRAEL COULD BE MADE BEFORE JERUSALEM POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

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JANUARY 16.

2. WITH RESPECT TO THE SUBSTANCE OF THE EC-9 POSITION, THE GERMANS SUGGEST THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. ISRAELI GOVERNMENT WOULD BE GIVEN AN ASSESSMENT OF THE EGYPTIAN STATE OF MIND FOLLOWING ISMAILIA MEETING, AND

THIS ASSESSMENT WOULD UNDERLINE THOSE ASPECTS OF BEGIN'S PLAN WHICH ARE DISAPPOINTING TO SADAT.

B. THE EC-9 WOULD SUGGEST THAT THE BEGIN PLAN BE PROJECTED AS A FIRST STAGE IN A PROCESS LEADING TO "AUTO DETERMINATION" FOR THE WEST BANK AND GAZA, WITH A COMMITMENT BEING MADE TO THAT END.

C. ALTERNATIVELY, IF THE ISRAELIS ARE NOT PREPARED TO CHARACTERIZE THE BEGIN PLAN AS A FIRST STAGE, THE EC-9 WOULD ARGUE FOR A STATEMENT OF GENERAL PRINCIPLES WHICH WOULD MEET MINIMUM EGYPTIAN REQUIREMENTS. THE NINE WOULD ALSO RECOMMEND THAT THESE BE DRAFTED WITH A VIEW TO MAKING THEM ACCEPTABLE TO THE SAUDIS, JORDANIANS, AND SYRIANS.

3. WITH SECRETARY'S APPROVAL, WE INFORMED VON STADEN THAT DECISION ON ANY EC-O APPROACH TO ISRAELIS IS OF COURSE UP TO THEM BUT WE WOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH POSITION ALONG LINES OUTLINED IN PREVIOUS PARAGRAPH. WE EMPHASIZED THAT WE WOULD NOT WANT OUR VIEWS CITED AND WE WOULD NEED TO BE IN A POSITION SHOULD THIS APPROACH TO ISRAEL BECOME PUBLIC TO SAY THAT THIS WAS A EUROPEAN APPROACH AND WE HAD NO COMMENT ON IT.

4. YOU MIGHT WANT TO REPEAT ABOVE POINTS TO FOREIGN SECRET

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OFFICE TO ASSURE UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS IS THEIR EXERCISE AND THAT WE SHOULD NOT BE ASSOCIATED WITH IT. OUR COMMENT ON SUBSTANCE OF OUR PROPOSAL HAS BEEN SIMPLY TO EXPLAIN THAT SUCH AN APPROACH WOULD NOT BE OUT OF LINE WITH SITUATION AS WE SEE IT.

CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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